मसालों का उत्पादन और उनकी गुणवत्ता

855. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मसालों के उत्पादन व गुणवत्ता के मामले में कोई सुधार नहीं किया गया है ;

(ख) इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ; और

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार द्वारा किये गये प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम) : (क) से (ग) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभव पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

आयात और निर्यातों का मूल्य

856. श्री राघवजी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1992, 1993 और 1994 के दौरान आयात किये गये और निर्यात किये गये माल का,वस्तु-वार और माह-वार, मूल्य रुपयों में कितना-कितना है; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि विदेशी व्यापार संतुलन भारत के पक्ष में नहीं है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसे पक्ष में करने हेतु क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम) : (क) वर्ष 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान आयात और निर्यात की गई वस्तुओं के, रुपये के रूप में, मदवार तथा माहवार मूल्य डीजीसीआई एंड एस, कलकत्ता द्वारा प्रकाशित क्रमश: मंथली स्टेटिस्टिक्स आफ फारेन ट्रेड इन इंडिया"(1992-93 और 1993-94 के वार्षिक अंक)खंड ii-आयात तथा (मंथली स्टेटिस्स्टक्स आफ फारेन ट्रेड आफ इंडिया") 1992-93 तथा 1993-94 के वार्षिक अंक), खंड-I-निर्यात तथा पुन: निर्यात में उपलब्ध हैं । इन खंडों की प्रतियां संसद पुस्तकालय में उपलब्ध है । वर्ष 1994-95 की अवधि का प्रकाशन (वार्षिक अंक) अभी नहीं छपा है।

(ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) सरकार ने नीतियों और क्रिया-विधियों को और अधिक निर्यात-अभिमुख बनाने हेतु अनेक उपाय किये हैं । इनके फलस्वरूप, निर्यातों में वर्ष 1993-94 में डालर के रूप में 20.4 और अप्रैल, 1994-जनवरी, 1995 के दौरान डालर के रूप में 17 से अधिक की वृद्धि दिखाई देती है । इन उपायों में ये शामिल हैं ; निर्यात लाभों पर आयकर में छूट, परिवर्तनीय मुद्रा में निर्दिष्ट सस्ते निर्यात ऋण की उपलब्धता ,निर्यात बाजार विकास के लिये निर्यात संवर्धन परिषदों को सहायता, देना, आदि ।

Misuse of value based advance Licencing Scheme

857. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attentioa has been drawn to the newsitem which appearsd in the Business Standard of 21st December, 1994 about fantastic profits made by Calcutta bnsed Gaitapati Exports Ltd. and if so whether the Value based advance licencing (VABAL) Scheme is being operated illegitimately and is likely to end up into another Steam:

(b) whether the nexus between his Ministry, DGFT and certain unscmpsulos exporters is intentianlly overlooking the hard realities of this scheme;

(c) whether operation of this scheme is resulting in huge revenue loss to the exchequer; and

(d) if so, Whether Government has taken cognisance of drawbacks in the scheme and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Investigations into alleged misuse of the scheme, by this firm are in progress. However, evidence available with Government does not warrant the conchison that the VABAL Scheme as a whole is being operated illegitimately.

(b) No, Sir.

(C) and (d) The scheme envisages duty .free imports of essential inputs required for export production. There is also flexibility bilt into the Scheme. Hence, it would not be correct to presume that there is a loss to fevene.

The Scheme is continuously monitored with a view to taking remedial measures whenever drawbacks are noticed in its operations. The Scheme has again been recently reviewed and fresh guidelines have been issued for its effective implementation .

***Agreements* Signed with U.S.A.**

858. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United State of America have signed any agreements in the areas of energy, petrochemicals, telecommunications and health services etc.;

(b) if so, the datails thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) During visit of Mr. Ronald H. Brown, United States Secretary of Commerce to India in January 1995, India and the USA signed an MOU on the formation of the Indo-US Commercial AlKance. 25 Chief Executive. Omcerr of large American companed accompanied Mr. Ron Brown in this visit and signed or announced number of MOUs/agreements etc. in different sectors including Power, Telecommunications, Petrochemicals. These understandings when implemented are likely to result in increased Indo-US trade and commercial ties.

(c) The Government has welcommed the increased interest of US Government and industry in investing in the infrastructure sector in India and increasing bilateral trade.

Problems in Getting up of Joist vestures in Nepal

859. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any procedural problems are discouraging Indian investors for setting up joint ventures in Nepal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government *to* streamline the procedures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM); (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Exemption of Cess on Spices

860. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the exemption of cess on spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM); (a) to (c) Cess on exports of spice oils, oleoresins and saffron already stands exempted upto 30.9.1995. Exemption of cess in case of pepper (except .green pepper in brine) which was earlier available upto 31.3. 1995 has further been exended upto 30,9.1995.